

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St. B. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 11, 1899.

Saturday evening's street car accident at the West Lackawanna avenue crossing forcibly emphasizes the need of a viaduct at this place.

Safeguard City Funds.

THE LAW, we understand, provides for the paying over monthly to the city treasurer by the mayor of all fines collected.

The statement presented by Controller Howell to select council at its last session indicates that for several months the mayor had in his possession in a manner not contemplated by law funds belonging to the city.

This is in no sense a political issue but a matter of simple arithmetic. When money is collected for the city, the city should get the use of it and not any particular official in the employ of the city.

The Water Question.

DURING THE present lull in the interesting controversy recently settled over the water question, it may be well to re-visit the attention of the public to what we conceive to be the nub of the whole matter.

We have not yet arrived, and we may never arrive, at a point in the community's relations with the Scranton Gas and Water company where the question of the city's taking over that company's plant is a practical question.

Nor has the time arrived for the adoption of the Melvin ordinance or a similar ordinance fixing arbitrarily the rates which the water company shall charge.

What, then, is the starting point of the present outcry? The introduction of meters in water connections for industrial and commercial use.

to have a talk upon the subject. The board's object is to advance the city of Scranton. Mr. Scranton's object, we assume, is to advance the Scranton Water company.

We cannot believe so. Neither side in this controversy has the right primarily to question the other's motive or exhibit excitement before the conference has taken place.

That Wreck at Paterson.

THIS AFTERNOON at Paterson the inquest of the coroner into the accident at that place on Nov. 29, which was begun on Friday night, will be continued.

So far as we can see at this distance from the scene, the proper objective point of the coroner's inquest will be to ascertain why train 56 was running within the city limits of Paterson, around a sharp curve, near the station and in full knowledge that No. 6 was not far ahead.

With the election of Governor Taylor settled, it is to be hoped that Kentucky will set a better example of self-government for our ambitious colonies.

Faith Not Declining.

TO THE proposition recently put forth and voluminously discussed in the New York Sun that the men and women of this generation are experiencing a decline of religious faith—a proposition assumed by very many able philosophers of our time to be correct—our venerable friend, Rev. Dr. N. G. Parke, of West Pittston, one of the patriarchs of Pennsylvania Presbyterianism, enters vigorous dissent.

The Presbyterian in Pennsylvania, with which I have been connected since its organization, is next to the largest in the state; and, in this Presidency we have heard of no abatement of the interest felt in maintaining the ordinances of God's house.

It certainly is a fact that in the church's history, as I have read it, there has been no time when there was more of a spirit of toleration among the professed followers of Christ than there is at the close of the nineteenth century.

type of samaritan work. The deliverances of the churches of every name on the subjects of Sabbath observance, temperance, marriage, social and political purity, have never been more in line with the teaching of the Bible.

The proclaimers of a decline in faith may be sincere in many instances, but in all instances they are mistaken in their estimates of contemporary events.

No reason has been presented from any quarter tending to show why the proposed location in this city of a six mill tin plate plant capable of manufacturing 5,000 boxes a week should not result profitably to the subscribers for stock and to the city at large.

Pittsburg has produced the latest apostle of "Darius Green," in the person of a Mr. Whitehead, who has invented a flying machine.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

A native Maori chief, the descendant of cannibal kings, is now completing his course in Calcutta.

An attempt on a large scale is soon to be made to stock the abandoned farms of Maine with cattle from the West.

The recent fire at Reading, in which one woman lost her life and several girls were badly injured, again points out the necessity of having fire-escapes that are fire-escapes.

Mr. Grau, the operatic manager, figures up his losses in the endeavor to create a musical settlement in Chicago at \$20,000.

The country will be impatient for the next few days to learn what Consul Macrum has up his sleeve.

The Star Document of the Whole Lot

From the New Haven Register.

WITH each new day the value of the report of Secretary of War Root become more impressive.

As the doctors would say, the realization has "set in" that it is the most businesslike, thorough and unflinching report from that department at least since the close of the civil war.

For a day or two after its publication, this report seemed not at all likely to meet a new and more flattering experience. It appeared as if, too, would answer the purpose merely of an official expression and thereupon lose itself in the great mass of departmental literature.

The chief quality of course of the Root war report is its common sense and business simplicity. It is that which strikes the reader and at once convinces him that the cheap spirit of Algerian has indeed taken wings and departed from the department.

There are a lot of illustrations in this report of the man's freedom from partisan bias and organization control. He treats the economic questions, which have already arisen between Cuba and Porto Rico and the United States, as

something to be settled upon a broad and natural basis, and not at all upon exclusive grounds. There are a great many who will shift uneasily in their chairs, as they read this: "I wish most strongly to urge that the customs duties between Porto Rico and the United States be removed."

We have thus commented upon this report because it seems to us to possess the quality which needs most to be impressed upon political parties and public officials, namely, that of common horse sense and directness.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE

IS YOUR HOUSE VACANT? IF SO, TRY A "FOR RENT" AD. IN THE TRIBUNE ONE CENT A WORD.

Mercereau & Connell, Jewelers, Silversmiths, No. 130 Wyoming Avenue. Our Thirty-fourth Year. A GRAND Christmas Display. BARGAINS IN EVERYTHING. Fine Diamonds, Rich Jewelry, Stone Rings. Watches of the reliable sort from \$2.50 to \$150.00.

Hill & Connell's Christmas Furniture. The largest stock to select from of Writing Desks, Lounges, Dressing Tables, Work Tables, Easy Chairs, Toilet Tables, Gilt Chairs, Cheval Cabinets, Inlaid Chairs, Parlor Cabinets, Rockers, Music Cabinets, Curio Cabinets, Shaving Stands, Waste Baskets, Pedestals, Jardinieres.

Hill & Connell Heating Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, Plumbing and Tining. 121 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa. GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 225-227 PENN AVENUE.

The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. 434 Lackawanna Avenue.

FINLEY'S HOLIDAY GOODS. A Fine Silk Umbrella As a Christmas Present for Either Lady or Gentleman. is as appropriate as anything we can suggest. We had this in view when we made our selections and the goods fully meet our expectations.

HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District. DUPONT'S POWDER. HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave. HOTEL JERMYN.

A New York journeyman printer writes: "On Saturday last I went to see one of the best if not the best physician and surgeon in Brooklyn. After paying some money I owed, we spoke of my boy of ten years whom I had along with me. The boy was not feeling well, his stomach appeared to be out of order and he was getting thin. I told the doctor that I had given the boy a Ripans Tabule the night before. Then I told him what the ingredients were—rhubarb, ipecac, peppermint, nux vomica and soda—and he exclaimed 'What's that? What's that?' Upon repeating the formula he said, 'Good, very good. You could not give him anything better. The rhubarb is what he needs for the stomach, and the nux will tone up the system. Continue giving him one each night and he will be all right.' He gave me no further prescription for the boy and charged me nothing for the advice."